

Serial No.: 09/683,988  
Docket No.: 55295 (43640/55295)

## REMARKS

### Amendment of the Specification

The title of the invention has been amended to reflect the fact that the claims, as amended, are directed solely to processes.

### Amendment of the Claims

The claims have been amended by cancelling, without prejudice to their patentability, the previously withdrawn claims 1-6. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter of claims 1-6.

### Double Patenting

Enclosed herewith is a completed and executed form PTO/SB/26, Terminal Disclaimer To Obviate A Double Patenting Rejection Over A "Prior" Patent, in which the Assignee, M-I L.L.C., disclaimed any term for the patent granted on the instant application that would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Pat. No. 6,251,348. Also included is the \$110.00 fee for filing the terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR 1.20(d).

In view of the foregoing, the rejections to claims 7-9 are obviated and Applicants respectfully request that be withdrawn.

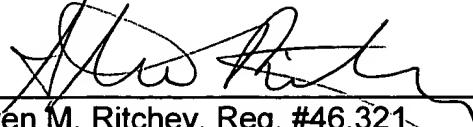
-----

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 20-0823.

Serial No.: 09/683,988  
Docket No.: 55295 (43640/55295)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven M. Ritchey, Reg. #46,321  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
One US Bank Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
Telephone: 314-552-6000  
Fax: 314-552-7000

Express Mail Label No. EV520468873US